

their engagements, and by degrees let out all the facts we have given a summary of. On their evidence Mr. Perry prosecuted and convicted the conspirators, in whose defence large sums were spent; and he has thereby, it is to be hoped, given a check not to lawful combinations amongst workpeople, but to an organisation which substantially amounted to a trade in strikes.

GUIDES IN THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

In reply to a paragraph so headed, which appeared in our pages a fortnight since, we have received a letter purporting to come from the "Universal Registry for Interpreters and Guides," and signed "F. D. Lewis, Chief Registrar." The writer defends the conduct of his blind guides on the ground that they are engaged by his establishment, and are totally unconnected with the executive committee. "This being the case," he continues, "you will perceive that as this office has to defray the expenses of their engagements, it does not assume an improper feature for the guides to inform any party requiring information, that they 'provide guides' for those that want them; for if they were to devote all their time in imparting information gratis, they would derive no income except through this office, to satisfy them for their labour. I have initiated inquiries into the case, and find that every civility was given to the gentleman when he asked for the information in question." Can the writer have observed that the information sought was simply the hurried inquiry in passing, "Pray, where is Class 21?" as one might ask the first person he met in the street the way to Grosvenor-square. If we thought he had, it would make us very suspicious of the whole establishment. So far from civility being shown, we must tell the "Chief Registrar" that the reply of the second guide was given with great insolence, and we repeat the expression of our commiseration for the poor simple countryman or woman who may fall into the hands of such sharpshooters, or of those who would justify them.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Norwich.—Some time ago we reported that a committee of the corporation had presented a report at a council meeting, in favour of the establishment of a free public library and museum, and that the members of the Young Men's Institute and others had subsequently presented a memorial to the council for the recommendation of the committee to be carried into effect. The memorialists, says the *Norfolk Chronicle*, have been waiting very patiently for this expected boon, but no movement whatever has been since made on the part of the council. "There are numbers of young men in this city to whom it would be a great advantage, and who would gladly avail themselves of it; and we believe that no popular institution for the diffusion of knowledge, either here or elsewhere, can be permanently established without it. We think that every thing should be done to draw our working men, and especially our young men, from mere sensual gratifications, and why there should be any delay in establishing such a library by the council we cannot imagine. If rooms are required we believe that the rooms of the Institute would be at once available." Perhaps the real reason is, that the Norwich Corporation think free libraries "all that sort of thing" mere stuff and humbug, just as many knowing English clodhoppers regard the talk of the "Parlez-vous" as mere gibberish. We know that there are such clodhoppers even in English corporations. The committee at least is an enlightened exception.

St. Neots.—An important experiment in gas making seems to be in progress here. A local correspondent of the *Cambridge Chronicle* says, in reference to it,—"Our townsman, Mr. Bower, has erected for the Messrs. Towgood, paper manufacturers, gas works, on the patent principle of converting those products of the coal into gas which otherwise would be condensed into tar, for erecting which, we understand he has bought the licence. Notwithstanding the many doubts expressed as to his

ever being able to accomplish that which, from the first, he avowed—namely, that with ordinary gas coals (from which gas companies generally got 8,000 or 9,000, and sometimes 10,000 feet per ton), he would get from the same coals 15,000 cubic feet—he actually does so. The Biggleswade Gas Company, in order to test it for themselves, despatched the manager and then the stoker, with 1 cwt. of their own coals, with which they charged the retort, and saw it worked off—the result of which was 765 feet from the cwt." This we long since predicted, and we do not believe that even this is the maximum. As to the precise merit of the patent in question, however, we cannot yet speak; but as the subject is of very general importance, it merits at least a fair trial. The St. Neots people are of course not likely to remain much longer satisfied without a reduction of price, and a demand has already been made on their gas company to reduce it to 6s. 6d. or 5s.: a very moderate demand indeed. "The company," it is said, "will then get quite as good a percentage (64 per cent.) as they now do." Both the company and the customers will perhaps be surprised to find the per-centage considerably increased; but such is the unswerving rule in gas statistics, as we have proved ad nauseam.

Widow.—The Guildhall being about to be improved and repaired, a specification was prepared by Mr. P. Hardwick, architect, and tenders were called for, when the following were opened:—Hall, 930l.; Cleave and Underley, 926l. 10s.; Bate, 912l. 10s.; Hollis, 907l. 18s.; Holden, 899l. The tender of Mr. Holden, according to the *Widow Express*, has been accepted, and an agreement signed for the completion of the works within two months. The improvements and repairs comprise a new floor for the Guildhall, the taking away of the heavy columns which now obstruct the sight and sound, and the removal of the magistrates' bench to the north end. Mr. Jenkins has been appointed to superintend the work.

Bideford.—The roofs of Northam church are being reconstructed and extensively repaired in oak and Memel timber: the whole of the ancient carving is being reproduced in solid oak, and the old parts made good and cleaned. New gutters are being placed throughout, and every part of the roofing will be renovated by Mr. Richard Gribble, of Pilton. The masonry and carving of the new windows have been executed by Mr. Wm. Parish, in Gloucestershire stone. The whole works are under the direction of Mr. David Mackintosh, of Exeter.

Lathom.—The Church of St. James, at Lathom, built and endowed by the late Earl of Derby, has been consecrated by the Bishop of Chester. The church was built by Mr. Smirke, architect. It consists of nave, chancel, south aisle, with spire at the west end. The pulpit and altar are of carved oak, and the seats in the nave and aisle are open. The chancel is separated from the nave by a low screen, and is wholly appropriated to the priest and choir: the prayer desk faces south, the lectern west, and the faldstool stands outside the chancel door.

Manchester.—According to a report recently made by Mr. Fernley, the architect, to the trustees of the Royal Infirmary and Lunatic Hospital charities, the design to enlarge and remodel the buildings of the infirmary, according to a general plan approved at a public meeting held June 26, 1845, having been nearly completed, in the erection of the two wings, the removal of the baths in Parkers-street and the houses in Portland-street, the erection of the palisading, and two lodges, and the laying out the grounds around the hospital; there remains at this time, therefore, only the reconstruction of the centre part of the main building, fully to accomplish the design then determined upon. It is, therefore, now proposed to build a new centre, at an estimated cost of about 4,000l., exclusive of fittings and furnishings, about 1,500l. more.

York.—The chapel of the York and Ripon Diocesan Training Schools has just been completed from the designs of Mr. Andrews, in the style of architecture of the fourteenth cen-

tury, and is capable of accommodating about 300 persons. The walls are of hammer-dressed stone, the facings being banded. The east window is of five lights, with flowing tracery. The side windows are of two lights, the tracery in each being varied. The west window is of three lights. The roof is high pitched and open: it is carried on corbels, sculptured with figures of angels playing on various musical instruments. The interior is fitted up with open seats, divided from the entrance by a carved oak screen. The whole expense of the building, it is said, will not exceed 1,000 guineas. Mr. Graves, of Aldwark, was the contractor.

Newcastle.—It is proposed by Mr. W. A. Brooks, the corporation engineer, that a dock of 4½ acres should be excavated and built in the very heart of the business part of the town. The scheme, according to the *Gateshead Observer*, is considered by leading men to be as feasible as desirable. There is also talk of some extensive dock improvements by Newcastle and Shields jointly at the mouth of the Tyne.

Edinburgh.—It has been resolved at a meeting of "Old Herioters," to have a statue of George Heriot placed in one of the niches of the Scott monument. Why George Heriot should occupy so comparatively humble a position under Sir Walter Scott's wing does not appear. There would be about as much congruity, we should think, in erecting a statue of Sir Walter in front of Heriot's Hospital. Both were benefactors—Heriot, to the citizens of Edinburgh, especially and substantially—and, moreover, so mere creature of Scott's production, but a matter of fact celebrity of equal local eminence, and in so very different a walk, that any special honour to the memory of the one, so far as we can see, should have no mere parasitical dependence on the monument of the other. It is the formal resolution of the "meeting of Old Herioters" to do honour to their benefactor by ornamenting the monument at Edinburgh in honour of another with his statue that seems to us incongruous, not the mere surrounding of Scott with the effigies of historical characters on whom he may have shed a lustre in his imaginative works. The Princes-street Gardens are large enough: could not the "Old Herioters" erect a separate statue to their posthumous and educational Cæsar, and leave it to others to lay their laurels on Sir Walter's altar?

Lezwall.—A column "nearly 60 feet high," has been placed "in one of the highest spots" in the parish of Lezwall, to the memory of Sir Andrew Agnew, the indomitable advocate for the pharisaical, or at least the Jewish, observance of "the seventh day's" rites of the old creation, on "the first day" of weekly observance in remembrance of "the new creation." "High places," in honour of such purposes, are highly appropriate.

Miscellaneous.—The Dunganon Gas Company, says the *Newry Telegraph*, "have reduced the price of gas to 8s. 9d. per 1,000 cubic feet; and it is hoped that, by the increased consumption, they will, at the next annual meeting, be enabled to make a still further reduction."—The project of erecting a new town-hall and police-station continues to be entertained by the leading inhabitants of Teignmouth.

THEORY OF SOUND.—I should wish to make one or two observations on sound, as much has been said of late as regards the new Houses of Parliament. If, in a long room, the speaker is placed on the side, those sitting on the opposite side will not distinctly hear the speaker if his voice is weak, but if they turn their face to the wall, they will hear infinitely more distinctly, and I believe that those placed on the same side as the speaker will also hear better than those opposite. I am not supposing it would be practicable for persons to turn their faces to the wall, only that it shows that sound is returned or reflected at certain angles, and that the plainer the surface of the wall is, the better chance there would be for those listening to hear more distinctly; and this I think applies to the Houses of Parliament.—A SUBSCRIBER.